





'The Columna' Bery. Chavira House  
S.W. corner  
Park & Adams Sts.

8LE183

Produced from the collections of the Library of Congress

Fla-37-Tala 3-2

63







THE COLUMNS  
TALLAHASSEE

Le 183

61

DIVISION OF ARCHIVES, HISTORY  
AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT  
BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

LE183  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Columns

AND/OR COMMON The William "Money" Williams Mansion

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Tallahassee

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Leon

STATE Florida

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Mitchell Powers

DATE OF PHOTO January, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Div. of Archives, History & Records Management, The Capitol,  
Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida

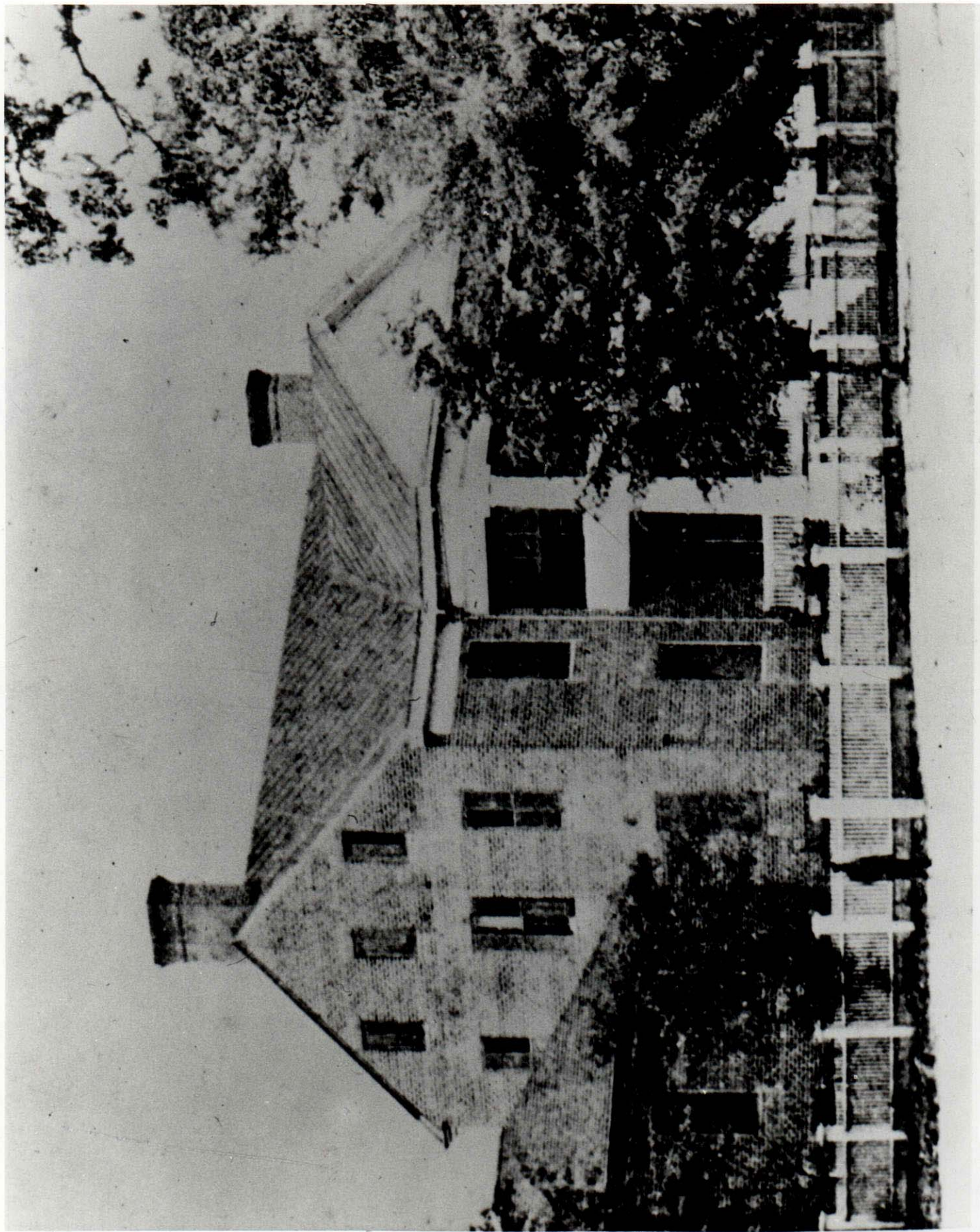
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 2

Southeast corner of main facade.







from Stereophotograms  
views of the 1870s

Mrs. Phelps Long

2220711

Fla. Dept of State  
Div of Arch, Hist, & Rec. Manag.

Reproduced at the Division,  
May, 1972.

8LE ~~183~~ 183







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Florida		COUNTY Leon	
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
1. NAME			
COMMON: The Columns (Benjamin Chaires House)			
AND/OR HISTORIC: The William "Money" Williams Mansion			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Corner of Adams Street and Park Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee			
STATE: Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Leon	CODE 073
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Bureau of Historic Preservation			
DATE OF PHOTO: January 15, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Bureau of Historic Preservation, Department of State			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Frontal view			



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

N.R.-file LE83

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: Leon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME
COMMON: The Columns (Benjamin Chaires House)
AND/OR HISTORIC: The William "Money" Williams Mansion

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <del>Corner of Adams Street and Park Avenue</del> 100 N. Duval St.			
CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee			
STATE Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Leon	CODE 073

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Unoccupied, but has been a library, Sunday school and	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
restaurant

OWNER'S NAME: <del>First Baptist Church</del> Tallahassee Area Chamber of Commerce	STATE: Florida
STREET AND NUMBER: <del>College and Duval</del> 100 N. Duval St.	
CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee	
STATE: Florida	
CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee	CODE 12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Leon County Courthouse	COUNTY: Leon
STREET AND NUMBER: Monroe Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee	
STATE: Florida	
CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee	CODE 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS		
TITLE OF SURVEY: HABS - (FLA-158) and Tallahassee Historic Buildings Survey		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 K Federal   State   County   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: (1) Library of Congress (2) City-County Planning Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: (2) Leon County Courthouse		
CITY OR TOWN: (1) Washington (2) Tallahassee	STATE: (1) D.C. (2) Fla.	CODE 08 & 12

STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Leon
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY



7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>           (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> Altered    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered         </div> <div>           (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> Moved    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site         </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The Columns on East Park Avenue is characterized by four great round masonry columns, by its great size, and by its huge chimneys, which rise flush with the gable ends. The brick is a dark red color made from native clay from a few blocks away. There is a legend that a nickel is molded in every brick, but this is probably tied to the actual cost of brick in those days. The entrance is simple and beautiful. On entering the front door, you see at the back of the hall the stairway with the Dominican mahogany rail leading to the floor above. There is another legend that says when the house was built, the owner had the stairway run down thru his bedroom on the first floor for fear his beautiful and rich young daughter would elope with someone who loved her only for her money. The Columns, in the heart of Tallahassee, looks today much as it did when originally constructed.</p> <p>Architectural Information          Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, College of Architecture and Fine Arts, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.</p> <p>A. General Statement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Three-story brick structure of Greek revival style with four columned portico, a good example of mid-19th century town house construction.</li> <li>2. Condition of fabric: Good. Although the interior has been extensively remodeled.</li> </ol> <p>B. Technical Description of the Exterior</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 94' (North) x 78'</li> <li>2. Foundations: Brick foundation walls</li> <li>3. Wall construction: Brick bearing wall, deep red hand-made brick 2 5/8" x 8" exposure, common bond.</li> <li>4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: Four columned portico with porches at first and second floor, wood floors, wood railings with turned balusters. Triangle fan louver in portico gable. Doric porch columns on piers, stuccoed masonry.</li> <li>5. Two brick chimneys, four flues each.</li> <li>6. Openings:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Doorways and doors: Doorway with transom of old glass in diamond shaped lights. Two doors, four panels each with beveled edge glass one panel.</li> <li>b. Windows and shutters: 6/6 double hung windows. Some wood louver shutters remain.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;">(continued...)</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE

Florida

COUNTY

Leon

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

(Number all entries)

The Columns

7. Description - page 2

7. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: Gable roof over house and portico. Sheet metal covering.
- b. Cornice and eaves: Simple wood cornice with boxed eave.

C. Technical Description of the Interior

1. Floor plans:

- a. Ground floor; large spaces for storage. One space has been used for laundry, kitchen, etc., brick hearth remains.
- b. First floor; central stairhall flanked by four rooms of original house, to misc. modern rooms in rear, and to ground floor.
- c. Second floor; central hall flanked by four rooms, stairs to attic. 1 screened porch (in portico)

2. Stairways: "U" shaped left hand wood stairway to second floor, two rectangular balusters 1 tread. Volute at bottom newel, molded mahogany railing. Stair to ground floor under second floor stair, lighted by fan light into stair hall.

3. Flooring: Pine boards 5 1/2" wide.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster on wood lath. Plaster on brick walls extending from ground to attic.

5. Interior doorways and doors: Wood doors, generally six panels, mortised and tenoned with pegged joints.

6. Trim: Simple fireplace trim with cornice and pilasters. Simple molded chair rail.

7. Hardware: Butt hinges on interior doors 1/4" plate and appear to be original. Some shutter hardware remains.

8. Lighting: Modern electrical

9. Heating: Fireplaces in each room with space heaters.

D. Site Description: Immediately north of the Bank of Florida (1828) and across Park Street from the First Presbyterian Church (1832).

The Columns will be moved from its present location to another site within the Tallahassee Historic District and used as headquarters for the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. A long battle was fought to preserve the building on its present site; but the owner must make room for a multilevel parking facility.



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>One of Tallahassee's oldest buildings, its early history is closely connected with the Union Bank which it adjoins to the rear. It was built circa 1830 by Benjamin Chaires under contract to William "Money" Williams. Chaires, the architect and builder, was a large plantation owner with many slaves.</p> <p>The Columns became Chaires' town house. It was used as a refuge for women and children during the Indian wars. After Chaires died in 1838, his son sold the Columns, its gardens and the Union Bank Building behind it in 1847 to Gen. William Bailey, a Jefferson County, Florida, planter and industrialist. In 1862, General Bailey moved his family to the Columns. The house was next owned by Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Hawkins. Mrs. Hawkins was a daughter of General Bailey and they exercised hospitality on a lavish scale. The little building called the slave quarters was used by Dr. Hawkins as his office at this time.</p> <p>The Columns, and its little servants quarters house along with the Union Bank Building are significant, not only to Tallahassee and the State of Florida, but these buildings are of national significance. We cannot estimate the full significance of the men and events that gave these buildings to us. They should be preserved and restored as living reminders of our cultural heritage.</p>			



## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bullard, James, "The Columns, A Local Landmark," Tallahassee Democrat, Aug. 14, 1966.  
 Waldrom, Ann, "Tallahassee's Columns Survives as Monument of Indian Warfare Refuge," Tampa Tribune, May, 1961.  
 Hadd, Donald, "The Columns 1830-1860", Tallahassee Historical Society, delivered February 11, 1960.  
 Henry, E. W., "Old Houses of Tallahassee", Tallahassee Historical Society Annual, February, 1934.  
 Knowles, Rev. Joshua, "Methodism In Tallahassee in 1836", from the True Democrat, Oct. 2, 1908.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"		

30° 26' 30" 84° 16' 54"  
 Lot 183 Original Plan of Tall.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: J. P. Schuck, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation	
ORGANIZATION Department of State, Division of Archives	DATE 2/25/70
STREET AND NUMBER: The Capitol	
CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee	STATE Florida
	CODE 12

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

*Robert Williams*

Title State Liaison Officer

Date December 18, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      FLORIDA

Date Entered      MAY 21 1975

Name

Location

Davis, Joshua, House

Mt. Pleasant Community  
Gadsden County

The Columns

Tallahassee  
Leon County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

Hon. Richard Stone  
Hon. Lawton Mainor Chiles, Jr.  
Hon. Don Fuqua

SEE SITE FILE STAFF FOR  
ORIGINAL PHOTO(S) OR MAP(S)





## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**DIVISIONS:** Administrative Services — Archives, History & Records Management  
Corporations — Cultural Affairs — Elections  
Licensing — State Library Services

### INFORMATION

CONTACT: Dean Kane 488-8142

National Register Nomination  
for The Columns Tallahassee

June 9, 1975

(TALLAHASSEE)---The classic Tallahassee structure known as The Columns has been ~~renominated for listing~~ <sup>re-entire d</sup> on the National Register of Historic Places, a listing which was withdrawn when the building was moved from its original location in 1971. The announcement was made by Secretary of State Bruce A. Smathers.

The Columns, built about 1831, on a lot that cost just five dollars, at the corner of Adams and Park, housed the family of William W. Williams and the Bank of Florida, this state's first bank, which he operated. Subsequently, the building was used by the Central Bank of Florida,...this state's second chartered bank, ...and possibly by the Union Bank, which was the third to come into existence in Florida.

Until 1925, The Columns was apparently used as a private residence by a number of families, but the record is not clear. Between 1925 and 1970, the structure was used for offices, apartments, a Sunday School, and even a restaurant.

In order to save it from destruction, The Columns was purchased by the Chamber of Commerce and moved to its present location in 1971. It is <sup>one of</sup> the oldest buildings still intact in Florida's capital city; and one of the few remaining examples of the Jeffersonian Classic style of architecture in the city. Even though the building was relocated and modified with improvements over the years, it is considered worthy of historic recognition.





LE183



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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AND/OR COMMON

The William "Money" Williams Mansion

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Tallahassee

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Leon

STATE Florida

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Mitchell Powers

DATE OF PHOTO January 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Div. of Archives, History & Records Management, The Capitol,  
Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 1

Main facade (east)

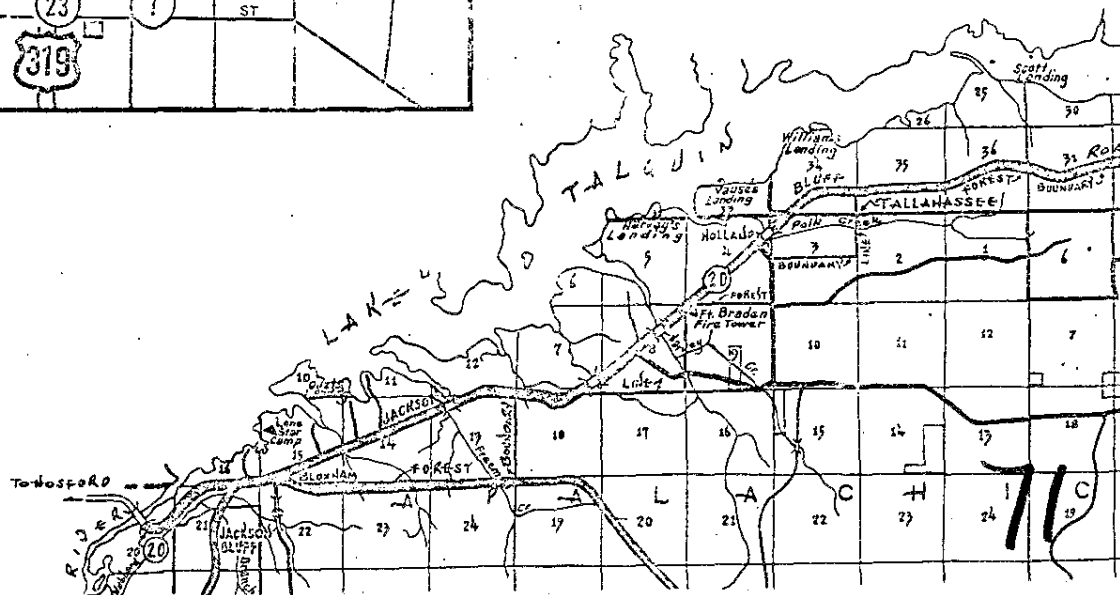


# STATE CAPITAL CENTER



## DOWNTOWN

Brevard Bldg	1
Bronough St Office	22
Caldwell Bldg	2
Carlton Bldg	3
Chamber of Comm	4
City Hall	5
County Court House	6
Elliott Bldg	7
Florida Bar Head- Qtrs Bldg	9
Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm	10
Governor's Mansion	8
Hayden Burns Bldg	18
Holland Bldg	11
Knott Bldg	12
Larson Bldg	23
Leon Hi	13
Leroy Collins Bldg	16
Mayo Bldg	15
State Capitol	17
Supreme Court Bldg	19
U.S. Post Office	20
Whitfield Bldg	21
Columns	24
Union Bank	25
Slave House (Columns)	26





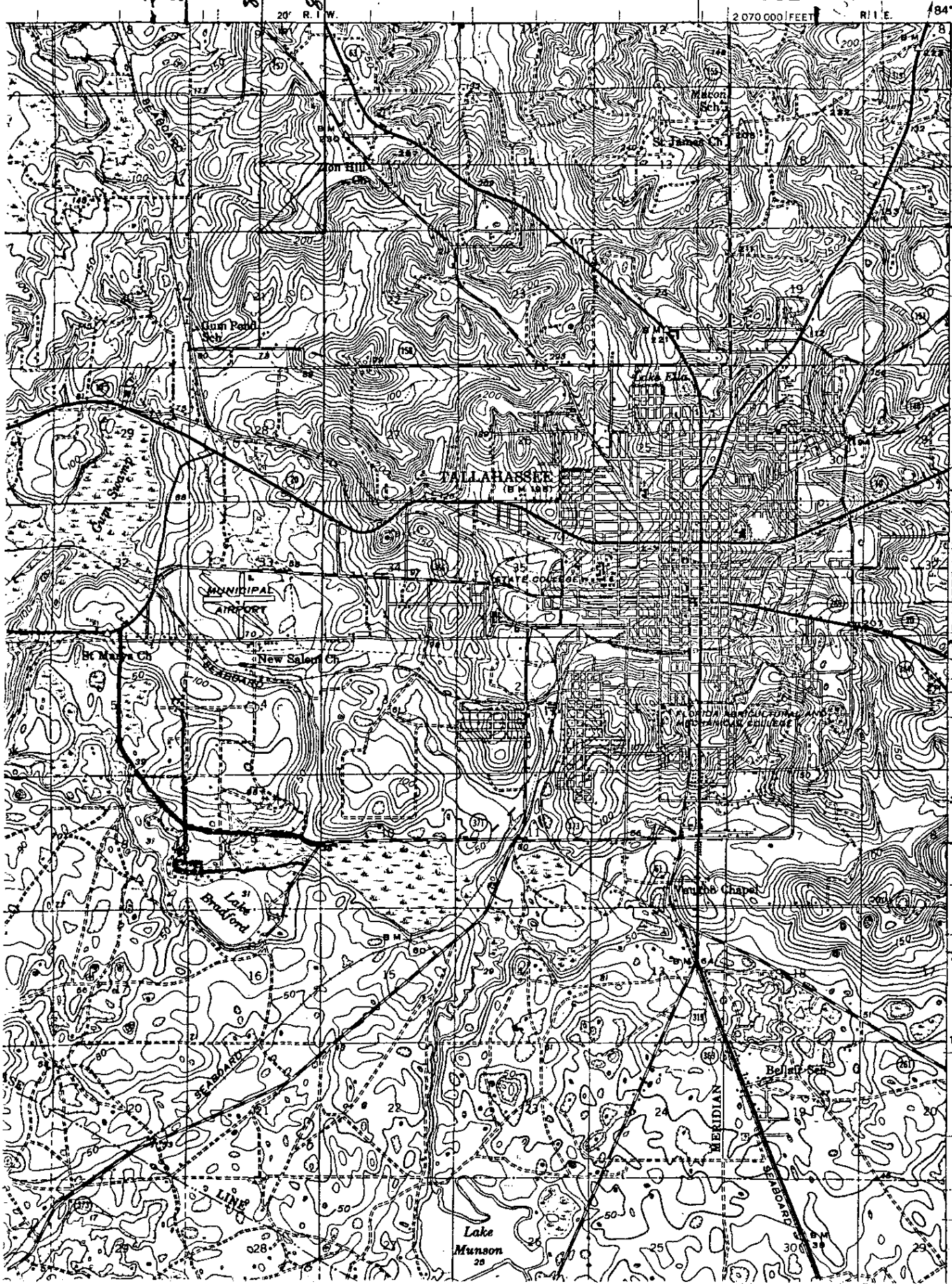
84° 20' 45" W  
MURKAT HOUSE  
84° 20' 00" ESCAMBI  
84° 0' 14" 00" ESCAMBI

RAINBOW (JUNC. U.S. 44) 39 MI.  
HAVANA 10 MI.

FLORIDA  
TALLAHASSEE QUADRANGLE  
15-MINUTE SERIES

84° 16' 50" W  
CAPITOL  
84° 15' 30" W  
G.WOOD

THOMASVILLE (JUNC. U.S. 19-44) 30 MI.  
BRADFORDVILLE 5 MI.



84° 15' 30" 30"  
30° 29' 30" ESCAMBI  
30° 29' 10" ESCAMBI  
30° 27' 30" G.WOOD  
30° 26' 16" CAPITOL  
30° 24' 46" MURKAT HOUSE  
24'



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The Columns

AND/OR COMMON

The Williams "Money" Williams Mansion

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Tallahassee

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Leon

STATE Florida

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE USGS Tallahassee Quad.

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1970

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



THE COLUMNS LE83  
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.  
UTM REFERENCE  
16/761400/337020

